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Thousands gather in Montreal to voice displeasure at Quebec's impending COVID-19 vaccine passport



Protest against vaccine passport

What is the

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MONTREAL - Thousands of citizens gathered in Montreal Saturday to voice their displeasure at the Quebec government's plans to implement a COVID-19 vaccine passport to enter restaurants, bars, gyms and certain non-essential venues.

"I think it's unconstitutional and it's also immoral," said David Freih, a lawyer. "It's ever-encroaching. It never ends."

Organizers from Québec Debout say the "Non a la passe sanitaire!" (No to the health pass) demonstration is to show the discriminatory aspect of the passport. The group was also behind protests against public health measures last May.

CORONAVIRUS

COVERAGE

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"The planned implementation of the health pass (proof of vaccination for restaurants, cinemas, sports teams, educational institutions, etc...) is an unprecedented prejudice for the population and is highly discriminatory," the event page reads. "We must say no together."

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Among those who gathered, several questioned the official COVID-19 death toll and science behind vaccines, citing discredited conspiracy theories.

Starting at 2 p.m., marchers headed down Rene-Levesque Blvd. to the Place des Festivals, where several speakers addressed the crowd. Co-organizer Jonathan Hamelin said the protests will continue until a real debate on vaccine passports is held.

Quebec's opposition parties said the provincial government's refusal to hold a debate in the legislature on its plan to impose a vaccine passport system reflects a larger problem with its use of emergency powers.

Premier François Legault responded by saying a debate isn't needed on his government's decision to require Quebecers to show proof of vaccination before they enter businesses such as bars and restaurants.

The health order is to begin across the province on Sept. 1.

-- *With files from The Canadian Press.*

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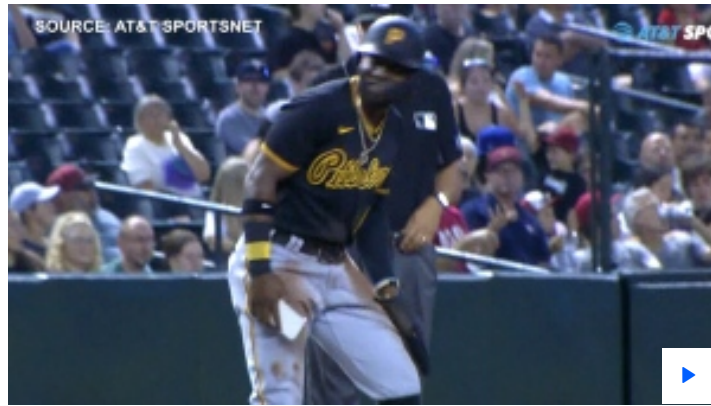
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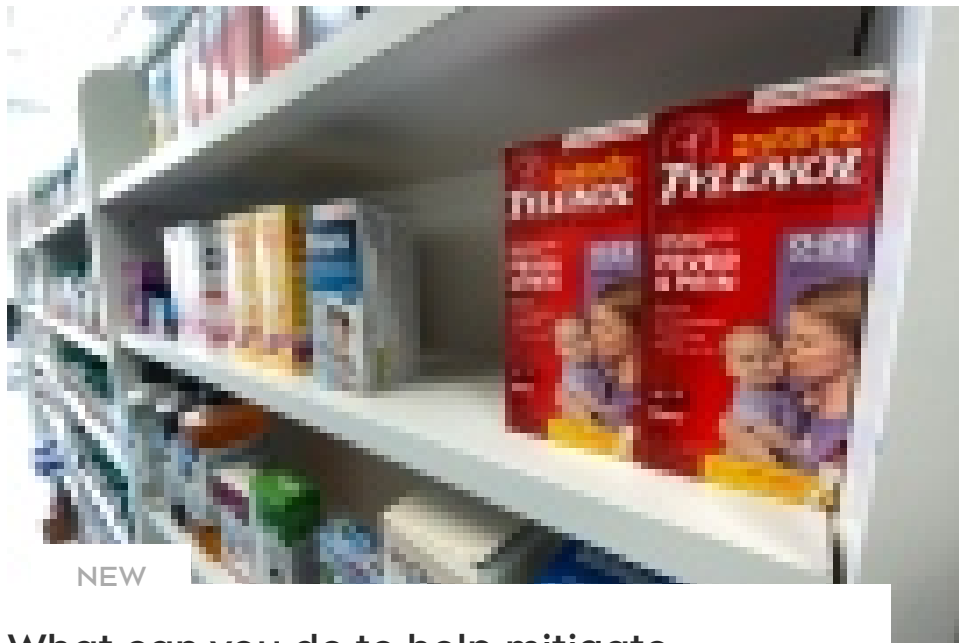


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Ontario releases plan to stabilize health-care system amid bed and staffing shortages

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Here's the reaction to Ontario's health-care system changes

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ATLANTIC



Saint John Police investigating Wednesday afternoon

homicide

Police say three unidentified masked men with dark clothing forced their way into an apartment where 39-year-old Justin David Breau was stabbed. The suspects ran away towards Garden Street before police arrived.

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NORTHERN ONTARIO



Northern Ont. MPP begs province to stop the closure remote community's only health care option

With another small northern Ontario community set to lose its only health care provider at the end of the month, Nickel Belt MPP France Gelinas is begging the province for help.

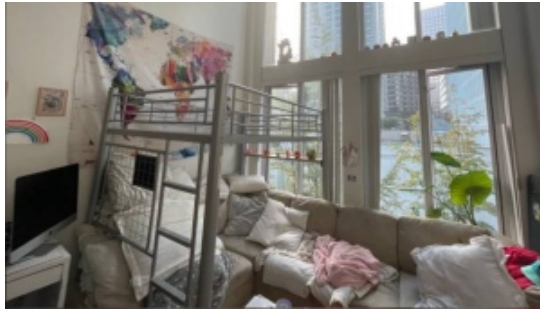
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Officer charged after crashing into OPP cruiser

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VANCOUVER



LIVE @ 2 | Vancouver zoo expected to give update; attraction closed for 3rd day following wolf release

The Greater Vancouver Zoo is expected to provide an update Thursday on the wolf release that forced the attraction's closure for multiple days.

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EDMONTON



UPDATED | Judge sides with Enbridge Inc. in Michigan's latest effort to halt Line 5 pipeline

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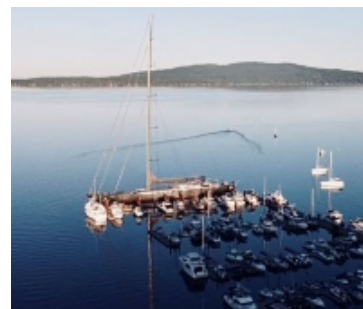
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WINDSOR



'He's done something terrible': Windsor man pleads guilty to hate crimes against LGBTQ community

Seth Bertrand, 19, pleaded guilty Wednesday to five charges, including “inciting hatred” and mischief for his actions against the home of a same sex couple and the Windsor office of Trans Wellness Ontario.

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Sask. on track for record-breaking drug overdose deaths in 2022

Saskatchewan drug overdose deaths are on the rise again this year.

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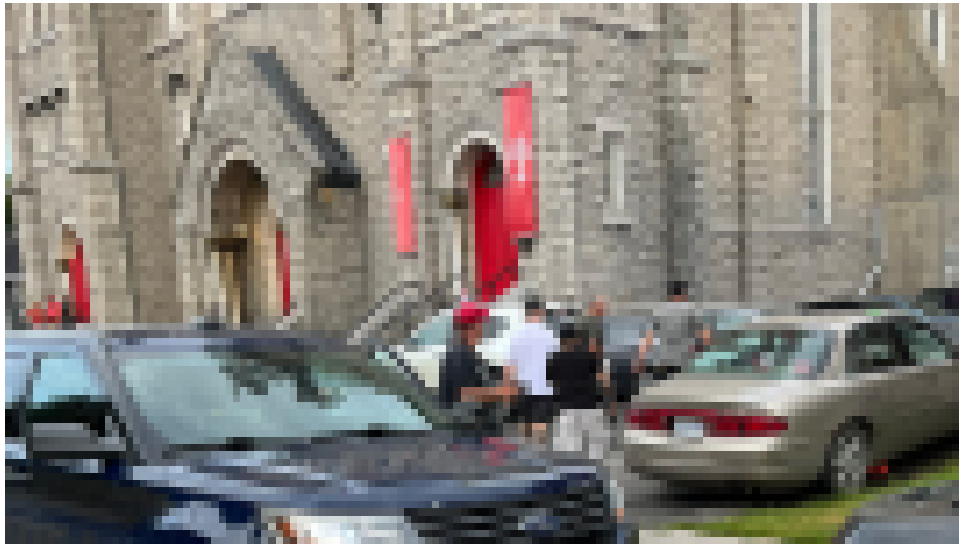
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OTTAWA



UPDATED | Freedom Convoy-affiliated group being evicted from Ottawa church

The owner of a historic church in Ottawa's Lowertown neighbourhood is evicting a group with ties to the 'Freedom Convoy' occupation planning to purchase the property this fall, in an apparent dispute over unpaid rent for the facility.

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SASKATOON



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The Saskatchewan NDP is calling on the province to remove teachers named in a multi-million dollar class action lawsuit alleging incidents of physical and verbal abuse against students by staff at the Legacy Christian Academy.

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Sask. on track for record-breaking drug overdose deaths in 2022

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